

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Indonesia

SUBJECT Status of Medical Profession, Medical Practice, and
Medical Training/Hospitals in Minahasa Area

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1. The total number of doctors in Indonesia as of the summer of 1954 was about 1,297. Of these about 150 were Dutch, 155 were German, and the rest were Indonesians. Of the Indonesians about 500 were Chinese and the remaining 400 or so were real Indonesians.
2. Before World War II when the schools in Indonesia were still under Dutch jurisdiction, there were two medical schools which were quite good -- one in Djakarta and one in Soerabaja. The training received at the schools was considered good, and during that time much valuable work was done by doctors in Indonesia in the field of medicine and medical research. Many of the big plantations had their own doctors and they provided fine laboratories in which the doctors could work. At that time the doctors were not as overburdened with work as they are now and it was possible for them to spend more time on research. Important work was done in the discovery of Vitamin B₁, as well as in the treatment of malaria and amoebic diseases.
3. Since World War II, however, everything (particularly in the field of medicine) is very poor in Indonesia. Medical schools are unable to provide the training which was offered under the Dutch, and the medical groups are not functioning well. The journal of the Indonesian medical society, which is supposed to be issued every month, is now [REDACTED] about 13 months behind. People who are supposedly writing papers for the journal are unable to get them in on time, and I believe this is largely because of a lack of interest. The failure to get the journal out on time is typical and is characteristic of the whole medical picture in Indonesia at present.
4. Foreign doctors who wish to practice medicine privately in Indonesia are required to put in three years practicing for the government before they can enter private practice. They are assigned to government posts throughout Indonesia -- usually in some remote area -- as the better government posts are usually reserved for Indonesian doctors (including Chinese who are citizens of Indonesia). I was a [REDACTED]

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1954, and at that time there were 14 or 15 doctors practicing there. Five of the doctors were white, six were Chinese and the rest were Indonesian.

5. Hospitals in the Minahasa region include a large general hospital (300 beds) in Manado; a psychiatric hospital in Manado with 100 beds; a Catholic hospital in Tomohon with 220 beds; a Protestant hospital in Tomohon with 200 beds; a hospital in Tondano with 120 beds; a Catholic hospital in Lembang with 230 beds; a hospital in Kawangkoon with 50 beds; a small hospital in Langoan [sic] with 20 beds; a hospital in Amurang with 40 beds; and a tuberculosis hospital in Noongoan [sic] with 100 beds. There is at least one doctor at each of the hospitals. At the Catholic hospital in Lembang there are 12 white nurses, and at the Catholic hospital in Tomohon there are 19. The protestant hospital in Tomohon has one white nurse on the staff. Other hospitals employ Indonesian nurses, and most of them have had little or no training. Indonesian nurses who were trained by the Dutch before World War II are very capable -- in diagnosis as well as in giving interveinous injections and in helping people generally. But since World War II no particular training has been required for nurses, and it is now possible for almost anyone to don a uniform and work in a hospital as a nurse. Polyclinics, or out-patient clinics, in Minahasa are run by nurses [presumably trained nurses] rather than by doctors. Childbirth in this area is nearly always attended by a midwife rather than by a physician, and the midwives are well trained and very competent.
6. Some of the hospitals in the Minahasa region have fairly modern equipment, and others have very little. The tuberculosis hospital in Noongoan is very well equipped. There is a fine X-ray machine at this hospital which was a gift from Queen Wilhelmina, but unfortunately the machine has never been used because there is no one at the hospital who knows how to run it. The big hospital in Manado has an X-ray machine, as does the hospital in Lembang. The Protestant hospital in Tomohon has two X-ray machines. Rather than sending X-ray machines and modern surgical instruments to the people in the Minahasa region, a better gift would be the loan of persons who could demonstrate the proper techniques in using such equipment.
7. Quite a number of German doctors have come to Indonesia to practice since the end of World War II. There is apparently an oversupply of doctors in the Federal Republic of Germany, especially since many have come there from the Soviet Zone, so many of them have gone to places, such as Indonesia, where there is a serious shortage of doctors. The Indonesians do not look upon the German doctors with much favor. The Germans who have come to Indonesia have not known the Indonesian language, they usually have not known much about the history of the country, and the Indonesians think it is obvious that they are there only to earn money.
8. Indonesians are not much more favorably inclined towards US citizens who have come to their country, as they believe that they, too, have come either to earn money or to spy on the Indonesians. The Indonesians cannot believe that US missionaries would come to their country for the sole purpose of helping the people. Since the missionaries are obviously not there to earn money, however, the Indonesians usually assume that they must be spies.

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